

U.S. Serial No. 10/028,465

REMARKS

Election/Restriction

Applicant affirms the provisional election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-27. The election was respectfully made with traverse, because a search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 7-9 and 17 are deleted above without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, claims 2, 4-6, 10-16, and 18-38 are pending herein. Of these, claims 28-38 are presently withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Objections

Claim 4-6 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

In this regard, claim 4 is amended above to include the limitations of claim 1 from which it depends. Hence it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

Of the other claims, claims 5, 6 and 18 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 4. Hence, these claims are in condition for allowance as well. Claim 17 has been deleted above, because it no longer further limits the claim from which it depends.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,522,067 to Graff et al.

Claims 7, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Graff et al. and further in view of either U.S. Patent. No. 6,597,111 to Silvernail et al. or U.S. Patent. No. 6,576,351 to Silvernail et al.

The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and their supporting remarks.

Moreover, these rejections are believed to be moot in view of the above claim amendments.

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In particular, claims 1, 3 and 7-9 are deleted above without prejudice or disclaimer.

Moreover, claims 2, 10-16, 19 and 20 now depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 4, which as noted above is patentable over the prior art and is in condition for allowance. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 10-16, 19 and 20 are also in condition for allowance.

Allowed Claims

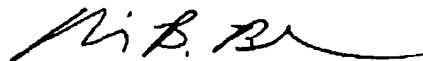
Claims 21-27 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that non-withdrawn pending claims 2, 4-6, 10-16, and 18-27 are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (703) 433-0510 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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